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NRO review(s) completed.

21 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT : Chronology of Key Points
 re CORONA Contracting

1. Project CORONA was authorized by the White House on 15 April 1958. Responsibility was assigned to the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) for general management of the vehicle development. The Air Force Ballistic Missiles Division was given detailed supervision of vehicle development, and operations. CIA was assigned the responsibility for development of reconnaissance equipment and for management of collection requirements, security, cover, and operations.

2. In December 1961 Richard Bissell's letter to the FIAB stated CIA had primary responsibility for targeting, operational planning and control of payload operations, development and procurement of photographic payload and nose cones, and security.

3. On 14 August 1964 - (attached) - 25X1
At the direction of Dr. McMillan, contracting officer advised the payload contractors that a clause would be incorporated in each of their contracts establishing appropriate recognition of Aerospace as general system engineers under the program management of the Air Force. 25X1

4. August 26, 1964 [redacted] Meeting with Secretary
Vance, Fubini, Kiefer, General Carter -

General Carter brought up CORONA Procurement, stating that funds beyond the current contract extensions to September and October had not been released to Program B. Mr. Kiefer's understanding was that this was being done through Program A in accord with agreement at the August 11 meeting, as recorded by Dr. McMillan. In order to clarify this understanding, the pertinent section of Dr. McMillan's memorandum for record of August 11 meeting was read by Secretary Vance.

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General Carter stated that such an arrangement obviated any input by CIA into the CORONA program in the future. Secretary Vance summarized to this point in that there was agreement on the SETD function via contractor, and that CIA technical participation was desirable.

5. August 28, 1964 [redacted] (attached) 25X1

Letter from General Carter to Secretary Vance

Letter attested to the fact that Agency had no record of discussion regarding transfer of contracting responsibility for CORONA payload from Program B to Program A. Further, that Mr. McCone did not agree to any changes in contracting procedures and particularly to any change in the responsibility for payload contracting.

6. September 29, 1964 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
ExCom Minutes

General Carter stated that he had no intention of Aerospace contracts into the CORONA payload area without Mr. McCone's approval.

7. 3 October 1964 [redacted] (attached) 25X1

Memorandum for the Record by General Carter

In letter of 28 August, Mr. Vance pointed out his belief that all contracting responsibility for CORONA payloads should be under General Greer and implied that we (ExCom, NRO) had agreed that this was feasible and should be done, or at least tried.

On 1 September at NRO Ex Com meeting attended by DCI and DDCI, there was lengthy and involved discussion of CORONA contracting. Mr. Vance said he was prepared to continue the CORONA contracting procedure as presently established if this was Mr. McCone's firm desire. Mr. McCone stated that it was, and it was therefore agreed that the contracting responsibilities remain as currently assigned.

On 10 September, Mr. McCone briefed the Ex Com, NRO, on his plans to augment the West Coast component of CIA and take over responsibility for all CIA contracting and other functions. There was no discussion of or dissent to CIA contracting for CORONA.

On 29 September, the Ex Com meeting, Mr. Vance reopened the entire business of CORONA contracting and the meeting was quite vituperative on the part of McMillan. After lengthy inconclusive discussion in which no commitments were made, McMillan stated he had sent both Vance and me a memorandum of exactly what the contracts he was talking about encompassed.

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On 1 October, the memorandum from McMillan makes it clear that the CORONA contracting he wants to transfer to the Air Force includes the Systems Integration contract at Lockheed (formerly known as Systems Engineering [redacted])

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On 2 October, Secretary Vance called me about these contracts and I reiterated the positions previously taken by me and Mr. McCone, to wit: The contracts previously and presently held by the CIA should remain with the CIA and we would augment our staff on the West Coast to administer them as previously agreed.

8. 6 October 1964 [redacted] (attached)

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Letter from Mr. McCone to Secretary Vance

Outlined the Director's proposal for assigning Mr. Crowley to General Greer and that Mr. Crowley, under General Greer's direction, would be specifically responsible for the following CIA activities and would provide a single point of contact which appears desirable, i.e.:

a. The payload contracts (Lockheed, ITEK, and GE) via the CIA contracting officer who would be located with him in General Greer's area.

b. The security of the payload through a CIA security man [redacted]

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c. Two CIA technical people, who would be assigned to him to work in CORONA.

d. The assembly, integration and checkout process and facility at Palo Alto where the payloads are assembled and tested.

This letter further suggested that:

a. Mr. Crowley and his staff participate in all contractor/supplier meetings, across the system interfaces, such that the team responsible for payload development remains fully cognizant of total system status.

b. Recognition by the Aerospace Corporation of Mr. Crowley's role in the payload area.

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[redacted]

c. Participation in the Configuration Control Board, or whatever coordinating mechanism is established to coordinate the system.

9. 15 October 1964 [redacted]

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In responding to the Director's letter of 6 October, Secretary Vance acknowledged the Director's proposal to consolidate under General Greer the CIA responsibilities for security, contracting, and technical assistance in the CORONA Program.

The letter went on to propose that:

a. General Greer would have complete technical direction as well as over-all management control.

b. Aerospace would perform the General System Engineering function.

c. Colonel Paul Heran, as CORONA Project Director, be chairman of the CORONA Advisory Committee.

d. Technical directions on approved changes would be prepared by the CORONA Project Director (i.e. Col. Heran).

e. There would be a single authoritative representation of the Government for technical direction on the entire CORONA system (Re-entry Vehicle, Camera, Sub-structure, Agena, etc.). This would be General Greer's responsibility.

Secretary Vance agreed with the Director's plan for realignment of management controls and urged that it should proceed without delay.

10. 26 October 1964 [redacted]

(attached)

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In reply to Secretary Vance, the Director agreed that General Greer should exercise complete technical direction and that corporations such as Aerospace and others should be assigned responsibilities such as general systems engineering functions.

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The Director referred to his October 6 letter regarding Mr. Crowley's responsibilities, and further, that General Carter, Dr. McMillan, General Greer and Mr. Crowley meet to work out the details. The Director suggested that final arrangements agreed upon should be set forth in a memorandum for the record prepared at the conclusion of the meeting.

11. 18 December 1964 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
Cable from General Carter to [redacted] stated 25X1
that it was [redacted] personal control and responsibility for payload as well as on-orbit camera operations, and that he is to maintain strict control of contractor support in those areas.

12. 13 January 1965 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
Memorandum from General Carter to Dr. McMillan proposes agreement on CORONA. Agreement gives CIA technical direction for CORONA payload. Dr. McMillan has yet to respond to agreement.

13. 15 January 1965 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
Cable from Dr. Wheelon to Dr. McMillan states: "In view of newly proposed CORONA Agreement and fact that you are not taking specific exception to the principle of it, believe it is proper for the direction to the CORONA payload contractors and other CIA-let contracts be channeled through the Agency contracting officer which in the case of the [redacted] facility is [redacted], which procedure is normal for all Government contracts."

14. 18 January 1965 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
Payload contractors from CIA
Information to Dr. McMillan reiterates [redacted] 25X1
contracting officers' policy and procedures for CORONA; namely, all implementation and conduct of work will be solely authorized by the contracting officer or his authorized representative.

15. 2 March 1965 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
Memorandum from DR. McMillan to General Carter expresses his concern over lack of implementation of Aerospace in a general systems engineering role.

16. 16 March 1965 [redacted] (attached) 25X1
Memorandum from General Carter to Dr. McMillan acknowledges receipt of Dr. McMillan's 2 March letter and states that he has reviewed the history and finds it subject to interpretation. General Carter states that the real point.

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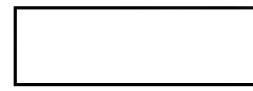
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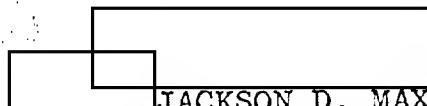
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... seems to be that the specific problem of Aerospace has been overrun by the larger question of active CIA participation in the CORONA program, and it has been placed in a holding pattern -- with other wished-for changes -- by the decision of Mr. Vance and Mr. McCone that no management or contracting procedures be implemented in CORONA until an overall adjustment of responsibilities therein could be established between ourselves.

General Carter also advised Dr. McMillan that "pending resolution of the broader CORONA payload management question, I have instructed Mr. Crowley to have his contracting officer re-establish this coverage by retroactive contract along the old lines." Subsequent to this directive, CIA has attempted to enter into a contract with Lockheed, who witting of the diversive approaches within the Government, has chosen not to sign either an Air Force-proposed contract or the CIA-proposed contract until such time as the Government can present an agreed upon position.

17. See attachments for pertinent contract clauses.



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Attachment

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(C and C')

April 1958 - June 1960

LMSC Prime Contractor with ITAK and GE as Subs

Technical direction of the program is a joint responsibility of several agencies of the Government. In the interest of the management, however, such direction will be provided primarily by and through the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division acting as the agent for all interested components of the Government . . . From time to time the Government agencies concerned will jointly review the progress of the program.

ARCON

Technical direction joint responsibility of several agencies of the Government. Direction provided by and through Contracting Officer or his Technical Representative.

C''' 21 June 1960

Over-all technical direction the joint responsibility of several agencies of the Government. Such direction will be provided primarily by and through the Air Force SSD acting as an agent for all interested components of the Government.

February 1961

Configuration Control Board established with representation from Air Force and CIA; NRO also participated.

C Mural 9 August 1961

Over-all TD joint responsibility of several agencies of the Government. Such direction by and through Air Force SSD. System engineering and technical direction will be accomplished by Lockheed under contract to the Government. Technical direction shall be accomplished by issuance of technical directions by SETD which shall be approved by the Government.

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In December 1961 Mural contract was changed to the extent that Lockheed system engineering and technical direction was now provided under a separate Air Force contract.

CORONA J - October 1962

Air Force contract with Lockheed for systems engineering expired; CIA contract written with LMSC to provide system engineering for C, LANYARD, and A follow-on. This contract by [redacted] on West Coast under general supervision of General Greer.

To cover the work efforts associated with the J program, contract was written covering cost from 19 October 1962, which stated that the management of the program was a joint responsibility of several agencies of the Government, but in the interest of effective management technical direction would be provided by and through SSD acting for all Government agencies. Further, it recognized the role of SE and acknowledged that SE was being accomplished under a separate contract to the Government; further that technical direction under system engineering accomplished by the issuance of technical directives by the SE should be approved by the Government. The SE procedures provided for review and approved by CCB. Decisions reached at CCB meetings were to be confirmed where necessary by issuance of technical directives and appropriate contractual documentations with the approval of both Air Force and CIA.

July 1963

Dr. McMillan transfers CIA C payload budget to the Air Force.

August 1963

Dr. McMillan personally assumes responsibility for issuance of technical directives.

March 1964

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Air Force lets CCB dissolve.

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August 1964

Dr. MacMillan directs establishment of Aerospace
as systems engineer.

August 1964

CIA urges CCC meetings. Offers to strengthen its
technical representation

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September 1964

CIA calls C meeting, in effect forces CIA into
monthly review meetings.

SUMMARY

C	29 Apr. 58	Joint - TD thru BMD
C	26 June 59	Joint - TD thru BMD
C	21 June 60	Joint - TD thru SSD
M	9 Aug. 61	Joint - TD thru SSD LMSC/SETD
M	Dec. 61	Joint - TD thru SSD LMSC/SETD (AF Contract)
J	Oct. 62	Joint - TD thru SSD SE (CIA Contract)
Both CIA & AF approve TD via CCB & Contracting Officer		
J	Aug. 64	Dr. McMillan directs Aerospace as SE
J	March 65	Gen. Carter advises Dr. McMillan re "old way", i.e. CIA holding SI contract through LMSC

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